



**Information For
Residents on
Collection of Recycling,
Yard Waste,
Trash and
Hazardous Waste**

TOWN OF BROOKLINE

Recycling & Trash Guidelines

DPW Business Hours

Monday - Thursday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM • Friday, 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Household Hazardous Waste Facility Hours

Thursday, 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM (May through October)

**Questions? Please call (617) 730-2156
or visit: www.brooklinema.gov/dpw**

A MESSAGE FROM THE BROOKLINE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dear Neighbor,

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) is a group of citizen volunteers appointed by the Selectmen. Its mission is simply stated: advise the Selectmen on the best ways to reduce municipal solid waste. We are committed to moving Brookline toward a goal of being a “zero waste” community.

That you are reading this message suggests that you share that interest. Thank you. Your efforts make fiscal and environmental sense.

Single stream recycling is the next step in the quest.

Single stream takes the guesswork out of recycling. It makes recycling more convenient. It allows for automatic or semi-automatic collection. It responds to increasingly sophisticated sorting machinery. It even tidies up our streets.

As collection and disposal expenses continue to rise and as we become more aware of our environmental responsibilities, the challenges of municipal solid waste policy are increasing. SWAC will continue to advocate for changes that will be fiscally responsible, equitable, and better for the environment.

Please continue to acquaint yourself with Brookline’s efforts and expectations by closely reading Brookline Works, by checking the website, by regularly reading the “Recycling Corner” in the TAB, by calling the Department of Public Works, and by informing yourself about best practices in surrounding towns and cities, across the United States and internationally.

Thank you.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Adam Mitchell, Chair
Danielle Chaplick
John Dempsey
Barbara Field
Cynthia Snow

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FAQs

- 1. When will Single Stream recycling start?** The week beginning, Monday, October 4, 2010. A new recycling contractor Waste Management with green recycling trucks will be picking up your recycling
- 2. What is single-stream recycling?** Single-stream isn't anything fancy. It simply refers to a new system that takes the two recycling "streams" collected through the Brookline curbside program — mixed paper and commingled containers — and puts them together in one toter. Voila. Single-stream. Two bins, now one. It is still important to follow the same guidelines applied to the two-bin program, except you put the two streams together.
- 3. What are the advantages to single stream?** By eliminating sorting, recycling becomes easier and increases participation and recovery rates. In many communities, recycling has increased 30% or more by switching to Single Stream Recycling. Single Stream also reduces collection costs because haulers can use single compartment trucks that can be compacted as opposed to specialized multi compartment vehicles that are more costly to operate. Over time this greatly reduces the energy required to collect the material.
- 4. Can I use my toter before October 4th?** No, we will not pick it up until the week of October 4th on your regular trash day. But, you are more than welcome to put recycling in it before that day.
- 5. What kind of recycling can I put in the new toters?** Everything you're putting in the blue bins now can be put together in the one toter including cardboard. All cardboard must be broken down and made to fit. There will be instructions stamped on the top of each toter on how to place it properly at the curb.
- 6. We live in a two or three — family home. May we share one or two 64-gallon carts to save the Town the cost of a cart?** Each housing unit will get a cart. You may choose to consolidate the recycling into one or two carts and hold the other cart in reserve. Remember the purpose of single stream recycling is to recycle all recyclable materials. Our trash audits have proven that even the most avid recyclers were still throwing recyclable material in the trash. This system makes it easier but we still need your help to do the right thing when it comes to throwing away or recycling your waste.
- 7. What will I do with cardboard?** All cardboard will have to fit in the cart. We won't be able to pick up cardboard that is not in the cart. As you know, you are currently expected to flatten all cardboard. Starting in October you'll continue to flatten it and you'll have to fit it into your toter - and close the lid. The lids on the carts are attached so no more lost lids.
- 8. What do you mean, "close the lid"?** The toters have lids. They should be closed when you roll the cart to the curb. Part of the single stream initiative is to discourage animals and wind and the automatic lift on the trucks from scattering recyclables in our yards, sidewalks and streets.

9. Will residents be fined if they have trouble with the new system?

Our effort is to **educate, educate and educate** residents about recycling protocols. Of course, if there are property owners who can't meet basic community standards, there will be fines.

10. What are the recycling regulations?

That toters cannot be placed out before 3:30PM the day before trash pickup and must be removed from the sidewalk by midnight the day of. All recyclable material (including Cardboard) must be placed in the toter with lid closed when stored and placed at the curb. Trash shall not be placed in the toter. Toter must be placed separate from trash and when possible away from parked cars, and from behind snow banks.

11. I don't think our household will be able to fill a 64-gallon cart every week.

Many residents will wait until their carts are substantially full before putting them out for collection. For example, former town administrator Kelliher reported he only put his toter out every 2-3 weeks. Remember the purpose of single stream recycling is to recycle all recyclable materials. Our trash audits have proven that even the most avid recyclers were still throwing recyclable material in the trash. This system makes it easier but we still need your help to do the right thing when it comes to throwing or recycling your waste.

12. Is the Town still going to get a rebate on waste paper?

Yes and no. No we will not receive a rebate on just paper. Our rebate will be based on all our recycling tonnage. Though the market price is less because of the mix of recycling there will still be a rebate based on current market prices.

13. Does the town or the subscriber to town trash service own the toter?

The Town of Brookline retains ownership of this cart. However, residents are responsible for ensuring their cleanliness. It would be advisable to put your address on your cart. If a resident moves, even if it is to another part of the Town, the cart stays with the address to which it has been assigned for the next resident.

14. What is the policy for damaged carts?

If the damage is a result of normal wear and tear (ex. broken lid or wheel), the Town will replace or repair the cart at no charge to the resident. If damage is a result of abuse, the charge to the resident to replace the cart will be at the Town's cost to replace. Please call (617) 730-2156 to report a damaged cart.

15. What do the numbers on the bottom of plastic containers mean? Isn't all Styrofoam recyclable?

The triangle symbol, more commonly known as the "chasing arrows" symbol, doesn't indicate recyclability, contrary to wide belief. The number just indicates the type of plastic it's made from. For example, A plastic bag may be made of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE - #2), the same material as a milk jug or bleach bottle. However, it contains different dyes, plasticizers, UV inhibitors, softeners, and other chemicals required to make it into a film. This mix of additives changes the properties of the plastic and makes it incompatible with the plastic used to make bottles. Similarly, to make styrofoam, the manufacturer adds air, thereby creating a different product which is not compatible with the recycling processing equipment. So please place only stiff plastic containers numbered #1-#7 in your green bin for recycling. You can reuse your grocery bags or bring them back to the store for recycling.

RECYCLING

YES

- Empty aerosol cans
- Paper-back books
- Paper milk/juice cartons
- No foil pouches, do not flatten
- Corrugated cardboard & paper bags
- Loose metal jar lids & steel bottle caps
- Phone Books
- Newspapers & inserts (no bags)
- Clean, balled aluminum foil (2" or larger) and pie pans



- hard-back books
- Glass bottles & jars
- White or pastel office paper
- Magazines, brochures & catalogs
- Cans (do not crush or flatten)
- #1-7 Plastic bottles & jugs
- #1-7 Plastic tubs & screw-top jars
- Paperboard boxes
- Blueprints
- File folders
- Paper egg cartons
- Opened mail & greeting cards



ALL TOGETHER NOW!

"Get Excited"

NO

- plastic bags
- scrap metal
- Tyvek® envelopes
- plastic 6-pack holders
- needles or syringes
- paper ream wrappers
- plastic microwave trays
- frozen food, ice cream or frozen juice containers
- mirrors, ceramics or Pyrex®
- light bulbs, plates or vases
- drinking glasses, window glass
- hazardous or bio-hazardous waste
- plastic other than those listed
- tissues, paper towels, napkins
- waxed paper or waxed cardboard
- Kraft® (orange/brown) envelopes
- Styrofoam or paper to-go containers

Questions Call (617) 879-4908

Brookline Single Stream Recycling is coming October 4th

New Waste Management recycling vehicle.



SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING

TRASH

Please Note

The Town of Brookline waste collection fee is based on the collection of domestic household waste accumulated during a one week period. Apartment, attic, basement, etc. clean outs and/or construction, demolition or renovation waste will not be collected. Please make arrangements with a private permitted waste hauler to dispose of these materials. Please visit our web site or call for a list of permitted waste haulers. www.brooklinema.gov/dpw

Holidays

Refuse collection will be interrupted during the following legal holidays. Residents shall place refuse out for collection one (1) day later than their usual collection day for the entire week. This includes residents whose collection day is Friday, putting refuse out for Saturday pick up. Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Patriot's Day

Trash Preparation

- ◆ Trash should be no more than 70 pounds per barrel. Barrels may not exceed 35 gallons in size.
- ◆ All trash should be in suitable, sealed bags, no loose trash, no trash in boxes.
- ◆ Empty waste receptacles should be removed from curbside before midnight, the day of trash collection.



**Questions Call (617) 730-2156
or visit www.brooklinema.gov/dpw**

& LARGE ITEMS

Storage

- ◆ Trash must be stored in barrels with tight fitting covers. Containers and covers with holes must be replaced. All dumpsters must be closed. Be sure to have a sufficient number of containers for your trash.
- ◆ Occupants must do their part and place garbage and rubbish in the required receptacles and put covers back on barrels and/or close lid of dumpsters.
- ◆ Property should be clean and sanitary, free of loose trash and debris.
- ◆ No bushes or trees hanging over sidewalk, no trash or other items blocking the sidewalk.



Metal items, Appliances, Crt's and TVs

- ◆ Metal items, (Doors must be removed from refrigerators) appliances, CRT monitors and TVs must be scheduled one week in advance for collection. Call (617) 730-2156 to schedule a pick up.
- ◆ Gas and oil must be drained from lawn mowers, snow blowers and any other gas operated unit before pick-up.
- ◆ Propane tanks must be removed from gas grills. For proper disposal of propane tanks please visit our web site: www.brooklinema.gov/dpw



**Questions Call (617) 730-2156
or visit www.brooklinema.gov/dpw**

TRASH

When Is My Trash Picked Up?

Your trash and recyclables are picked up at curbside once each week. The collection day depends on where you live. If you don't know which day, call (617) 730-2156 or visit www.brooklinema.gov/dpw. All trash, Recyclables, Yard Waste, Bulk items and CRT'S (TV'S) to be picked up, needs to be placed at curbside by 7:00 a.m. on the pickup day, but no earlier than 3:30 p.m. the night before. Please be careful if you put the trash/recycle containers out the night before, since animals may tear open bags or get into trash barrels during the night, and collectors will not pick up trash that is not in a container. Unacceptable material will be left at curbside.

What Happens If My Collection Day Falls On A Holiday?

Your trash will be picked up the next day, and everyone else whose collection day follows the holiday will have their trash picked up one day later than usual, so that Friday's trash will be picked up on Saturday for that week.

What If I Want To Get Rid Of Some Trash Other Than On My Usual Collection Day?

Hire a Private Permitted Brookline Waste hauler at www.brooklinema.gov/dpw.

What are Special Pickups?

The Sanitation Division will pick-up large bulk items couches, white goods, stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners ect and CRT's and TV's. You must call (617) 730-2156 one week in advance of your regular trash pick-up to schedule.



**Questions Call (617) 730-2156
or visit www.brooklinema.gov/dpw**

& LARGE ITEMS

Is there a 24 hour hot line number to report problems or ask questions?

Yes, call (617) 879-4900 anytime to report or ask any question in regards to waste, recycling or any other issue.

Who do I call if my trash or recycling is not picked up?

Call (617) 730-2156 or, call (617) 879-4900 anytime to report or ask any question in regards to waste, recycling or any other issue.

What do I do with my Hazardous Waste?

The Sanitation Division Has set up a household hazardous waste collection center located at 815 Newton St. It is open every Thursday from 7:30AM to 12:30PM from May through October. Please visit town web site for a list of acceptable items.
www.brooklinema.gov/dpw.

Rechargeable batteries and mercury can be brought to the Brookline Health Center 11 Pierce St

Brookline's Hazardous Waste Facility, 815 Newton St., Chestnut Hill, MA



YARD WASTE

Leaf and Yard Waste Guidelines

Yard waste is collected April 1st – Dec. 31st

- ◆ **Acceptable yard waste** consists of leaves, grass clippings, shrub trimmings, plant cuttings, tree branches, limbs and vines* (not exceeding 3 inches in diameter or 3 feet in length).
- ◆ **The following acceptable yard waste**, such as leaves, grass clippings, shrub trimmings and plant cuttings shall be placed out for collection in paper yard waste bags or rubbish containers labeled "Yard Waste" (decals are available at the Municipal Service Center, 870 Hamond St., Chestnut Hill). Tree branches, limbs and vines* (not exceeding 3 inches in diameter or 3 foot length) shall be tied in standard bundles not to exceed 70 pounds.
- ◆ **UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS** Sand, soil, sod, logs, rocks, stumps and trunks.
- ◆ **DO NOT** place yard waste in plastic bags. They will not be collected.
- ◆ All yard waste must be placed out the same day as trash collection.



**NO EARLIER THAN 3:30PM THE DAY BEFORE COLLECTION
AND NO LATER THAN 7:00AM THE DAY OF COLLECTION.**

The Asian Longhorned Beetle



The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) is an invasive pest that grows and reproduces within healthy and stressed deciduous hardwood tree species, such as maple, birch, horse chestnut, poplar, willow, elm, and ash. The beetle eventually kills the host tree. Several thousand trees have already been inspected and to date no additional infestations have been found.

For Brookline residents that have town sanitation services, woody debris that is greater than ½" in diameter and under 4' in length can be collected curbside. It should be separated from standard leaf/ grass clipping waste.

For property owners not on town sanitation services or clearing limbs greater than 4' in length a drop off area will be set up in the regulated area. Please visit www.brooklinema.gov/dpw for more information.

& COMPOST

Compost Bins at Discounted Rates to Brookline Residents

It's easy to make compost, and the Town of Brookline makes it even easier by offering home composting bins for \$40.00, over 50% off the retail price. The "Earth Machine" compost bins are easy to use, about the size of a large trash barrel and currently retail at \$80.00. This special offer is made possible through a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. To obtain a discounted compost bin, please call 617-730-2156 for an order form.



Why Do I Have To Put My Leaves And Grass In Special Paper Bags?

You don't necessarily have to put them in the special biodegradable bags. You can put them in barrels clearly marked "Yard Waste" and leave them out on the same day that your trash is collected during the weeks that yard waste is collected. Yard waste stickers are available at the town hall 4th floor or Municipal Service Center 870 Hammond St. No plastic bags are acceptable. The paper bags are used because they are more cost efficient to pick up and are known to be biodegradable, thus saving the town (and the taxpayer) money in collection costs. Please call the Sanitation Department at (617) 730-2156 if you have questions.

Where Can I Get These Bags?

Biodegradable paper yard waste bags are available for purchase at the Home Depot or at your local hardware store. Prices and availability may vary.

How Must I Bundle My Brush/Yard Waste?

Yard Waste is defined as leaves, grass clippings, shrub trimmings, plant cuttings and non-woody organic garden waste only. Brush is defined as wood waste from bushes and trees that is less than three inches in diameter. Materials such as dirt, sand, sod, rocks, stumps or trunks will not be accepted. Pieces of brush must be no more than 3" in diameter and no more than three feet long. Brush must be tied and bundled in lengths of three feet or less and weigh no more than fifty pounds per bundle. Brush not meeting the above criteria will not be accepted..

**Questions Call (617) 730-2156
or visit www.brooklinema.gov/dpw**

HOUSEHOLD

How To Transport These Materials Safely

- ✓ Leave materials in original container
- ✓ Tighten caps and lids
- ✓ Sort and pack separately
- ✓ **NEVER MIX CHEMICALS**
- ✓ Do not place waste in a garbage bag
- ✓ Never smoke while handling hazardous material
- ✓ Put containers in sturdy upright boxes/ pad with newspaper



Common Household Hazardous Waste

(All products must be labeled to be accepted, No exceptions, No unknowns)

From the House

- Filled Aerosol Cans
- Adhesive, glues and resins
- Cleaners, spot removers, polish
- Photo chemicals
- Chemistry sets
- Oven, drain, toilet cleaners
- Hobby/artist supplies
- Mothballs
- Flea collar products
- TVs, CRTs, Electronics
- Light Bulbs, CFLs
- Properly Contained Syringes
- Rechargeable batteries



From the Workbench

- Oil base paints
- Wood preservatives
- Paint strippers/thinners
- Solvents and varnishes
- Lighter fluid

From the Garage

- Fuels, gasoline, kerosene
- Antifreeze and used motor oil
- Engine degreaser
- Brake and transmission fluid
- Carburetor cleaner
- Car polish
- Driveway sealer
- Car batteries
- Pool chemicals
- Tires
- Sealants



From the Yard

- Pesticides
- Insecticides
- Fungicides
- Poisons
- Chemical fertilizers
- Weed killers



HAZARDOUS WASTE

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Commercial/ industrial waste
- Compressed gas cylinders
- Ammunition, fireworks, explosives,
- Flares (contact Police and or Fire Departments)
- Prescription medicines
- Infectious/ biological wastes
- Butane, other flammable gases
- Regular household batteries
- Smoke detectors
- Construction materials
- Radioactive waste
- Empty containers
- Non-hazardous materials
- Asbestos
- PCBs
- Fire extinguishers



DO NOT BRING

Latex Paint Or Regular Household A, Aa, Aaa, C And D Nonrechargeable Batteries. Latex Paint May Be Dried Out With Kitty Litter And Or Sand And Placed Next To Your Trash With The Cover Off. Regular Household Batteries Can Be Thrown Out With Your Trash



Moving? Other Drop Off Options

Ask a neighbor to bring your items to the collection.

Clean Harbors in Braintree, (781) 380-7100. Small fee per pound. Saturday mornings from May-October. Call for details.

Minuteman Facility in Lexington, (781) 862-0500. Fee based on quantity. 8 collections days per year. Call for details.

815 Newton St, Chestnut Hill, MA
Open Thursday's May Thru October
7:30am to 12:30pm
(May be closed due to inclement weather)

**Town of Brookline Residents ONLY—
Proof of Residency required**

**BE PREPARED TO WAIT—FREE DROP
OFF SERVICE— NO COMMERCIAL
WASTE ACCEPTED**

RESIDENTS WITH LARGER THAN A TRUNK LOAD
MUST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
With Ed Gilbert Please call (617) 879-4908



Single-Stream Recycling Guide

Starting in
Brookline on
October 4, 2010!

You can now place all recyclables in one toter!



Opened mail & greeting cards



Paper egg cartons



Paperboard boxes



#1-7 Plastic tubs & screw-top jars



#1-7 Plastic bottles & jugs



File folders



Blueprints



Magazines, brochures
& catalogs



White or pastel
office paper



Cans (do not crush or flatten)



Loose metal jar lids & steel
bottle caps

**PLEASE REMOVE THIS INFORMATION GUIDE
FOR NEW SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING**



flatten

Corrugated
cardboard &
paper bags



Paper milk/
juice cartons
(no foil pouches,
do not flatten)



Paper-back
books



Empty
aerosol cans



Small blue recycling bins will no longer be collected once the single-stream program begins. New toters will be distributed to all households starting September 13, 2010.

Questions? Call or Visit:
Department of Public Works:
(617) 730-2156
www.brooklinema.gov



All Together Now!

Single-Stream Recycling

**DO NOT PLACE THIS CART
OUT FOR COLLECTION
UNTIL THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 4, 2010**